



**Directorate of
Intelligence**

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Terrorism Review

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22 April 1985

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This review is published every other week by the Directorate of Intelligence. Appropriate articles produced by other elements of the CIA as well as by other agencies of the US Intelligence Community will be considered for publication. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Executive Editor

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Terrorism Review

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Focus**Iran, Syria, and Libya: Terrorist Cooperation**

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The three major state sponsors of terrorism—Iran, Syria, and Libya—have overlapping foreign policy interests, but available evidence does not indicate that they are yet pursuing a coordinated terrorist strategy. The three states share a desire to undermine US policies and influence in the Middle East, to destroy Israel, and to intimidate or weaken pro-Western moderate Arab states. All three have made efforts over the past two years to move closer together in these areas of mutual interest. The terrorist-related cooperation that has occurred among them has been largely bilateral in nature and has generally involved providing support to surrogates.

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Bilateral Cooperation: Iran and Syria

Most of the terrorist cooperation occurring in Lebanon has been between Iran and Syria. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard contingent—stationed in Lebanon since 1982—operates from the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley. The Guard recruits and trains Lebanese Shias for the Iranian-backed Hizballah movement, elements of which we believe are responsible for the major terrorist attacks in Lebanon that have occurred since 1983. Although Hizballah probably now is capable of conducting attacks without Syrian or Iranian cognizance, both they and the Revolutionary Guard would be hard pressed to maintain their activities in Lebanon without tacit Syrian support.

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While Damascus probably has not directly aided the radical Shias in anti-US terrorist acts, arms and supplies must pass Syrian checkpoints, and Syrian forces have provided security and travel documents for Iranians and their local allies in Lebanon. In addition, Syria may have provided some logistic support to Tehran for the bombing of the US Embassy and other targets in Kuwait in December 1983.

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As long as Iran's activities serve Syrian purposes in Lebanon, Damascus is likely to tolerate terrorist attacks directed against Israeli, US, and Western interests. Damascus is aware, however, that its efforts to establish long-term effective control over Lebanon are undermined by Iranian-sponsored terrorist activity. Iranian success in recruiting radical adherents among the Lebanese population, moreover, gives Tehran an independent base of support that Syria finds increasingly difficult to control. The growing strength of the extremists may ultimately compel Syria to crack down on Iranian-sponsored terrorists, but Damascus would run the risk of becoming a target in the process, and it will have to weigh carefully the overall costs and benefits of its relationship with Tehran.

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Beyond Lebanon, Syria assists Iran to a more limited degree. The Syrians allow the Iranian Embassy in Damascus to serve as a focal point for supporting the movement of terrorists into and out of the Arab states in the Persian Gulf. Syria also allows Iran to support Iraqi exiles trying to attack Iraq from Syrian territory. This cooperation is motivated by the desire of both Syria and Iran to weaken the Iraqi regime of Saddam Husayn. Damascus almost certainly does not want radical Islamic republics to be established in the Persian Gulf states that provide Syria important financial assistance. It is notable that there is little evidence indicating Iranian assistance for the terrorist operations conducted by Syria in pursuit of its own foreign policy goals.

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Syria and Libya

Bilateral cooperation on terrorism between Syria and Libya is focused on the mutual support of surrogates. Libya has long been a supporter of the more radical Palestinian groups and has actively supplied arms, funds, and training to the Syrian-controlled anti-Arafat rebels. Groups such as Abu Nidal and the PFLP-GC act with Syrian backing and also receive Libya's money and arms. Libya's influence over these groups appears to be limited, however, and Qadhafi has often been frustrated because Syria controls the flow of arms Libya provides for the groups it supports. We have no evidence to indicate that the Syrians and Libyans have discussed operational details of terrorist operations against Western targets, although they almost certainly have talked about anti-Arafat operations.

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The Syrians generally deem Qadhafi too untrustworthy and mercurial to engage in genuine cooperation with him. Qadhafi uses extremist rhetoric to urge attacks against Israel—which suits Damascus—but Libya does not have the leverage to direct Palestinian activities, nor would Damascus find such meddling useful. Moreover, Qadhafi has demonstrated interests well beyond Middle Eastern boundaries, supporting numerous insurgents and radical governments worldwide, while the more practical Assad concentrates on the Middle East, where he can exert the most influence.

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Libya and Iran

Future cooperation is most likely to develop between Iran and Libya, although there is still a high level of tension in their relationship. Libya and Iran remain distrustful of each other for a variety of reasons. Qadhafi's and Khomeini's philosophies are incompatible, and Qadhafi is jealous of Khomeini's ability to inspire militant followers. Iran, for its part, keeps alive a legacy of bitterness toward Libya because it blames Qadhafi for the disappearance of Lebanon's revered Shia leader Musa Sadr in Tripoli in 1978. In fact, a terrorist group called the Musa Sadr Brigades—apparently composed of Lebanese Shias—seeks revenge for the cleric's death by occasionally attacking Libyan targets.

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An initiative for joint terrorist acts in Lebanon is likely to come from Libya. For its part, Libya has little to offer Iran and its radical Shia surrogates, who have demonstrated a sophisticated capability to undertake and successfully carry out major terrorist attacks. Qadhafi would find it difficult to win support among the radical Shias in Lebanon, given their religious fervor and their disdain for his

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brand of revolutionary socialism. Qadhafi probably is no more eager than Assad to see Lebanon become a fundamentalist Shia state, and his dreams of glory are such that he perceives Khomeini—and sometimes Assad—as rivals for influence in the region.

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Prospects for Trilateral Terrorism

This past January, the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Libya met, and we believe other such meetings have been held in the last two years. We do not know the details of discussions at these meetings, although terrorist matters probably were raised. Based on terrorist activities we can trace, we have not seen evidence that the meetings resulted in coordinated operational planning or targeting. We are less certain about whether some sort of broad-gauged terrorist strategy may have emerged, although we are skeptical. Iran, Syria, and Libya each use terrorism for their own particular reasons, and their primary terrorist targets are different:

- For Iran, terrorism is a way to strike at its enemies—the United States, France, the Gulf states (including Iraq), and Iranian exiles—who oppose the export of its revolution. Tehran justifies such activity on the basis of its fundamentalist Shia ideology.
- Libya is a relatively weak and isolated state that uses terrorism opportunistically because of a lack of other effective policy tools to use against its adversaries. Tripoli's attacks are directed primarily against anti-Qadhafi Libyan exiles and selected moderate Arab leaders. The secular, revolutionary vision of Qadhafi's *Green Book* is strikingly different from the Islamic fundamentalism that inspires Iranian terrorism.
- Syria uses terrorism more selectively against Israel, Jordan, the mainline Fatah Palestinians, and the Gulf states to further its foreign policy goals. Syrian-backed Palestinian attacks have spilled over into Western Europe, but Syria itself has little interest in committing terrorist acts in other regions. Unlike that of Iran and Libya, Syrian-sponsored terrorism is not driven by ideological motives.

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Their divergent interests and longstanding rivalries almost certainly will preclude the formation of a standing trilateral "terrorist international" to plan or coordinate joint activity among the three states. They could, however, forge temporary, tactical ties on a limited, case-by-case basis. For example, Libya, Syria, and Iran currently cooperate to some extent in assisting Kurdish rebels fighting against Iraq. But, in most cases, their efforts to use terrorism to advance the anti-Western and anti-Israeli goals they share will remain largely unilateral in execution.

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There is, moreover, no evidence to link Iran, Syria, and Libya jointly to terrorist groups outside the Middle East, although they may use common sources of supply for arms, other materiel, and logistic support. Each of these states has the capability, however, to undertake operations outside the Middle East on its own, and Libya is known to provide sporadic assistance to some leftwing European terrorists. Recently, Libya publicly indicated an interest in joining hands with the Red Brigades and the RAF. Qadhafi has specifically threatened US and NATO installations in Italy, but we doubt Iran or Syria would assist in such an undertaking.

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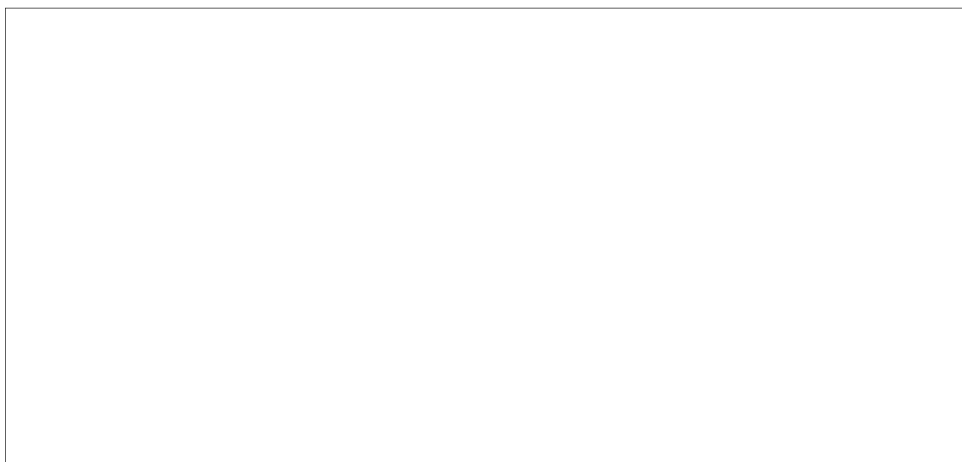
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Highlights

Key Indicators

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West Germany



Libyan Antiexile Campaign in Europe Continues Unabated

An anti-Qadhafi Libyan student, Jibril al-Dinali, was killed by a gunman on 6 April in Bonn. The assassin, a Libyan named Fathi al-Tarhuni, also wounded two German passers-by and was subsequently arrested at the scene. The student had been an active opponent of the Qadhafi regime and had been kidnaped and roughed up by Libyan diplomats in Germany three years earlier. This incident is the third attack against Libyan exiles in Europe this year, although the first in West Germany since 1980. The assassination might strain Libyan-German relations, since Tripoli reportedly assured Bonn in 1983 that it would not conduct attacks on German soil.

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Spain

Restaurant Outside US Airbase Bombed

The 12 April explosion that destroyed the El Descanso Restaurant killed 18 Spaniards and wounded 82 others, including 15 Americans. Individuals claiming to represent several terrorist groups—the Basque separatists (ETA), Spanish leftists (GRAPO), the Islamic Jihad Organization, and a previously unknown group called the Armed Organization of the Jewish People—claimed responsibility for the attack. The restaurant, a favorite with personnel stationed at Torrejon Airbase outside Madrid, had received anti-NATO phone calls and bomb threats prior to this attack.

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Both the explosives used and the style of the attack appear similar to other operations conducted by GRAPO, whose anti-NATO stance is well known. GRAPO members have met with Iranian-supported terrorists and members of the French leftwing terrorist group Action Directe. That organization reportedly has encouraged GRAPO to attack a high-level US military officer in Spain during President Reagan's visit there in May. However, since it was weakened by a police sweep in January, GRAPO's capability to conduct such an assassination is doubtful.

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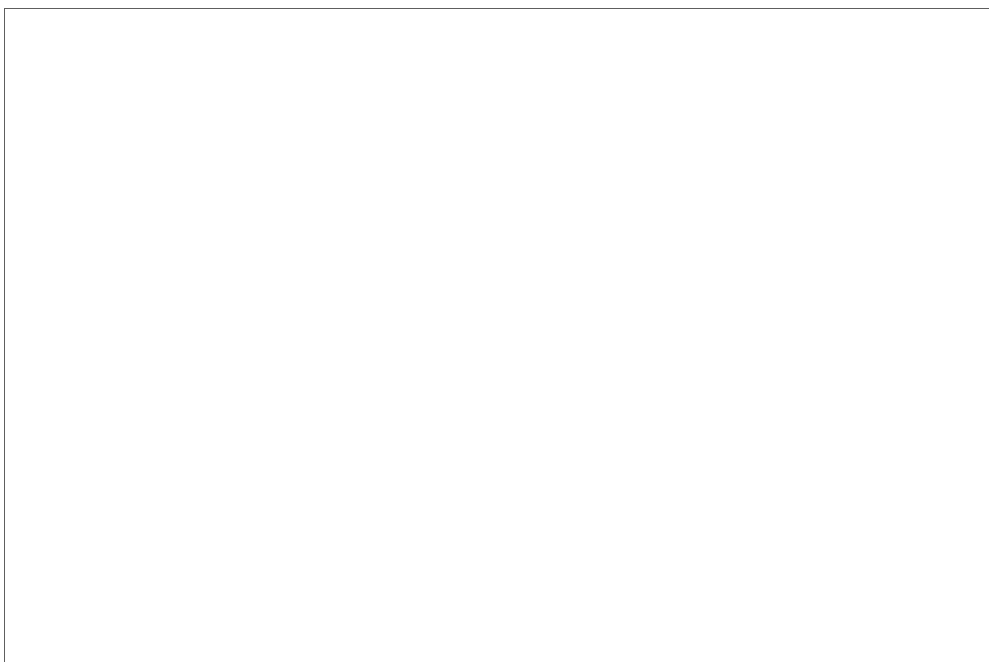
Turkey**Armenian Terrorist Attacks Expected**

Turkish authorities are tightening security as they do each year in anticipation of Armenian terrorist attacks on or around 24 April—the date when Armenians commemorate the alleged 1915 massacre of as many as 1.5 million of their countrymen by the Ottoman Turks. The Turks are also concerned that Armenian terrorists reportedly blame them for the late March disappearance in Beirut of a Dashnak official and may attack Turkish officials in reprisal. Except for the bombing of two Turkish banks in West Germany in 1982, however, 24 April usually has passed quietly in other years.

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Significant Developments**Romania****Extradition of Palestinian Terrorist Denied**

The Romanian Government has refused Jordan's request to extradite Ali Hersh, the Palestinian student accused of assassinating a Jordanian diplomat in Bucharest last December. The Romanians have invited a Jordanian "observer" to the trial,

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which begins in the next few weeks, but have refused Jordan's request to participate in the investigation. Bucharest may fear that extradition of the accused assassin might touch off violence by radical Palestinian students in Romania.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Colombia**FARC Forms Political Party**

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) announced on 30 March the formation of a political party, to be known as the Patriotic Union (FARC/UP), to complement its guerrilla operations. The announcement came one year after the signing of a cease-fire and peace agreement with the Colombian Government. This effort represents the first formal attempt by a Colombian guerrilla group to establish a political front and comes at a time when the Colombian peace process is faltering. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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The Syrian-Sponsored Terrorist Campaign Against Jordan

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The recent escalation in the level of terrorist violence within Jordan and against Jordanian personnel and facilities abroad is likely to persist. Syria and its client Palestinian groups will continue to use terrorism to discourage King Hussein from participating in negotiations for a Middle East settlement. []

The recent campaign of attacks on Jordanian interests began soon after King Hussein agreed last November to host the Palestine National Council (PNC)—the equivalent of the Palestinian parliament. Syria and the Palestinians it supports had opposed convening the PNC until Arafat was removed as leader of the PLO. The King's approval for the PNC meeting in Amman with Arafat still in charge came on the heels of the restoration in September of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Egypt, another action strongly opposed by Syria and the rejectionist Palestinian groups. The third and most recent impetus for Syria to support a terrorist campaign against Jordan is its desire to undermine implementation of the mid-February agreement between Jordan and the PLO for joint action in peace negotiations. Syria has consistently opposed any moves toward negotiation by any of the parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute, fearing that its own interests might not be protected. []

Jordan has been a target for Syrian-supported terrorists for more than two years. Since the November PNC there have been eight terrorist attacks against Jordanian targets abroad and nine attacks within Jordan—four against US targets. (See the accompanying chronology of incidents for more detail.) []

Most recently, the attacks have focused on Jordanian facilities in Western Europe:

- On 21 March, the Royal Jordanian Airline offices in Rome, Athens, and Nicosia were the targets of separate grenade attacks—all within two hours—that injured five persons.

- On 3 April a young Palestinian man was arrested by Italian police after the US-made light antitank rocket he fired narrowly missed the Jordanian Embassy offices on the fifth floor of an office building in Rome. A fourth floor apartment was badly damaged, but no one was injured.

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- On 4 April, a rocket of Soviet Bloc origin was fired at a Jordanian airliner as it was preparing for take-off from Athens airport. The projectile punched a small hole in the fuselage but did not explode. Greek police are searching for an "Arab-looking" youth traveling under a Jordanian passport who escaped in a rental car driven by an unidentified accomplice.

In telephone calls to press agencies, anonymous spokesmen claimed responsibility for all of the above incidents in the name of the Black September Organization (BSO). []

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The name BSO commemorates the month in 1970 when Jordanian forces drove the Palestinian fedayeen out of Jordan. However, the original BSO, a covert element of Fatah, which mounted a number of notorious terrorist events in the early 1970s, has been defunct for more than a decade. We believe Syrian-backed Palestinian radicals, and not a resurrected Black September Organization, were responsible for these attacks. The BSO name is probably being used both to provide cover and to magnify publicity for the attacks. []

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The BSO name may have a more recent significance for the terrorists because of the September 1982 massacre of Palestinians at the Sabra-Shatila refugee camp by Israeli-supported Lebanese Forces militia.

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Terrorist Attacks Involving Jordan

Date	Location	Incident	Group Responsible
1983 (12 attacks)			
9 May	Jordan	Bomb damages private US school	Unknown ^a
9 May	Jordan	Bomb damages American insurance company office	Unknown ^a
13 Oct	Jordan	Handgrenades thrown into Royal Guard compound	Unknown
25 Oct	India	Jordanian Ambassador shot	Abu Nidal Group suspected
26 Oct	Italy	Jordanian Ambassador and driver shot	Abu Nidal Group claimed
31 Oct	Jordan	Car bomb damages Jordanian officers' club	Unknown
7 Nov	Greece	Two Jordanian Embassy guards shot	Abu Nidal Group suspected
8 Nov	Jordan	Bomb damages local car dealership	Unknown
9 Nov	Jordan	Bomb defused at Saudi airline office	Abu Nidal Group suspected
10 Nov	Jordan	Bomb defused at home of USAID official	Abu Nidal Group suspected
10 Nov	Jordan	Bomb defused near Chinese Embassy	Abu Nidal Group suspected
12 Nov	Jordan	Car bomb defused near British Embassy	Abu Nidal Group suspected
1984 (14 attacks)			
10 Jan	Jordan	Bomb defused at Islamic Center	Unknown
24 Mar	Jordan	Bomb explodes at Intercontinental Hotel, across the street from US Embassy; second bomb defused	Abu Nidal Group claimed
24 Mar	Jordan	Bomb defused near British Council	Abu Nidal Group claimed
24 Mar	Jordan	Bomb defused outside British Consulate	Abu Nidal Group claimed
3 Aug	Jordan	Bomb damages US Embassy warehouse	Unknown
11 Aug	Jordan	Bomb defused near TV station	Unknown
13 Aug	Jordan	Bomb defused near US official's residence	Unknown
24 Nov	Jordan	Bomb defused at US Oriental Institute	Unknown
27 Nov	Jordan	Bomb explodes near PLO office	Popular Struggle Front ^b
29 Nov	Greece	Jordanian diplomat attacked	Unknown
2 Dec	Jordan	Bomb defused at US bank	Unknown
4 Dec	Romania	Jordanian diplomat killed	"Black September" claimed
26 Dec	Jordan	Bomb defused at PLO official's home	Unknown
29 Dec	Jordan	PLO leader Qawasmeh killed	"Black September" claimed
1985 (10 attacks)			
10 Jan	Jordan	Bomb defused near USAID employee's home	Unknown
10 Jan	Jordan	Bomb defused at Iraqi Embassy	Unknown
10 Jan	Jordan	Bomb defused at Kuwaiti Embassy	Unknown
22 Feb	Jordan	Bomb defused at US Oriental Institute	Unknown
9 Mar	United Arab Emirates	Bomb found on Jordanian airliner	Unknown
21 Mar	Cyprus	Grenade attack on Jordanian airline office	"Black September" claimed
21 Mar	Greece	Grenade attack on Jordanian airline office	"Black September" claimed
21 Mar	Italy	Grenade attack on Jordanian airline office	"Black September" claimed
3 Apr	Italy	Rocket attack on Jordanian Embassy	"Black September" claimed
4 Apr	Greece	Rocket attack on Jordanian airliner	"Black September" claimed

^a Claimed by Military and Revolution Committee of Jordan, an unknown group.^b A small Palestinian extremist group.

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We currently lack the evidence to determine which of Syria's Palestinian surrogates are responsible for the recent BSO attacks. [REDACTED]

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We believe the recent wave of attacks—if not the result of direct orders from the Syrian Government—are at least the product of Syrian encouragement and support. [REDACTED]

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The attacks against Jordanian interests almost certainly will continue. The recent surge of attacks in Western Europe suggests that Jordan's enemies believe that Jordanian interests are more vulnerable outside the Middle East. We expect that additional operations will be carried out in Western Europe for this reason. The attacks in 1985 reflect a trend toward operations that focus on soft targets and require only limited preparation. They also indicate that these terrorists are more willing to undertake operations resulting in indiscriminate casualties. As a result, more extensive casualties involving innocent bystanders may occur. [REDACTED]

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Chronology of Terrorism—1985

Below are described noteworthy foreign and international terrorist events and counterterrorism developments that have occurred or come to light since our last issue. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included.

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Early March

Sri Lanka: Twelve Tamil university students killed by LTTE in Jaffna. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam killed eight men and four women—all probable supporters of the group—who had protested the expulsion of a professor and his wife from the insurgent group.

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12 March

Mozambique: Civilian truck convoy ambushed by insurgents in Tete Province. RENAMO used guns and rocket launchers in the attack. Property damage was reported, but there were apparently no casualties.

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18 March

South Africa: Limpet mine damages police vehicle near Pretoria. There were no casualties because the occupant had momentarily stepped out of the car. The African National Congress is suspected.

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21 March

Libya: Time bomb may have caused fire in commando barracks in Benghazi. Although the cause of the blaze is not yet certain, Libyan leader Qadhafi subsequently ordered the arrests of several security officials in the area. This fire occurred around the first anniversary of an explosion at the Al-Abyar munitions depot, which may have been the result of dissident sabotage.

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Late March

Austria: Al-Zulfqar terrorists convicted, sentenced in Vienna. The nine-man terrorist squad was arrested in July 1984 after an abortive attempt to seize foreign hostages. The two leaders of the group were sentenced to terms of 13 and 11 years, respectively; the other seven each got seven years. []

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1 April

Greece: Public prosecutor assassinated outside suburban Athens home. A previously unknown group calling itself "Anti-State Struggle" claimed responsibility for the second murder of a prominent Greek in Athens in six weeks. []

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Namibia: Bomb deactivated in clinic. The device was the third explosive found in the town of Tsumeb this year. Guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organization are believed responsible for all three incidents. []

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4 April

Spain: Two bombs deactivated by Civil Guard at Alicante. Both devices were placed near important hotels in an apparent effort to discourage the tourist trade. No group has claimed responsibility, but Spanish officials suspect the Basque ETA or the Spanish leftist GRAPO. []

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6 April

Greece: Four separate Molotov cocktail attacks cause little damage in Athens. The previously unknown Social Revolution Group claimed responsibility for two attacks on the ruling PASOK party offices and one on a New Democracy Party office. Unidentified terrorists calling themselves "anarchy activists" took credit for the other attack, against a branch office of the National Bank. []

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West Bank: Off-duty Israeli soldier kidnaped, murdered while hitchhiking. The assailants reportedly hit him on the head with a blunt object and strangled him. His body was found in a wadi near the Bet Arye settlement. The Palestinian group DFLP has claimed responsibility for the murder. []

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Colombia: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrillas kill three peasants. The three murdered men were believed to be army informers. []

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Bermuda: Homes of two government officials firebombed. The Director of Tourism—a US citizen—and the Finance Minister, []

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[] were the targets. There were no injuries and no claims for the attacks. []

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7 April

Spain: Construction company building in Huelva damaged by GRAPO bomb. GRAPO may have targeted the company because of its union problems. The explosives used appear to be part of 175 kilograms of dynamite stolen from a Huelva stoneyard on 3 March.

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7-8 April

France: Three bombs in Paris damage offices of state-owned coal board and electric company, and Jewish-owned restaurant. No injuries were reported, and no group claimed responsibility for the incidents.

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West Germany: Bomb damages building housing offices of company working on NATO ship contract. A second bomb was found and defused.

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West Germany: Bomb causes slight damage to NATO pipeline near Tuebingen. The "Ulrike Meinhof Fighting Unit," a possible Revolutionary Cells subgroup, claimed in a letter mailed from Stuttgart to a German press agency that the attack was "part of the anti-imperialist struggle."

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Syria: Attempted Sabotage at Refinery. Three attackers, one of whom had explosives fastened to his body, were fired upon when they attempted to enter the grounds of an oil refinery in Homs. Two of the terrorists were killed. No claim has been made for this incident.

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8-9 April

Japan: Ten homemade rockets fired at Narita Airport construction office. None of the four rockets that hit the building exploded. The leftist terrorist group Chukaku-ha (Nucleus Faction), which uses such rockets and opposes expansion of the airport, is believed responsible.

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9 April

Lebanon: Israeli airstrike against Palestinian base. Israeli Air Force planes attacked a Popular Struggle Front base near the village of Shimlan. The strike completely destroyed a two-story building and caused an unknown number of casualties.

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Costa Rica: Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose target of tear gas grenade hurled from passing vehicle. There were no injuries and no group has claimed responsibility.

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Taiwan: Two sentenced in murder of Chinese-American journalist. Two gangsters were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the killing last October. The trial of the director of Taiwan's military intelligence bureau and two subordinates accused of ordering the murder is continuing. Police are on alert for possible violence by other gang members. ☐

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Turkey: Bomb explodes at Istanbul bank, causing little damage, no casualties. A second explosive device was defused at another Istanbul branch of the same bank. Banners attached to both bombs bore the name of Dev Sol (Revolutionary Way). ☐

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10 April

Chile: Two hurt in double bomb blast at Santiago shopping center. The two bombs exploded within three minutes of each other and occurred near the site of another car bomb attack two weeks before. Leftist guerrillas claimed responsibility for the earlier bombing but there has been no claim for the most recent blasts. ☐

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Portugal: Bomb damages bank office in Oporto. No casualties were reported. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but the leftist terrorist group FP-25 is suspected. ☐

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12 April

Japan: Two more rocket attacks on Narita Airport expansion. Two separate flights of homemade rockets launched from trucks destroyed two cars and closed the airport for an hour but caused no casualties. Credit for the attacks was claimed by Chukaku-ha (Nucleus Faction) and Senki-ha (Battle Flag Faction). Police said the devices resembled those found in a raid of a Chukaku-ha safehouse in January. ☐

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